

State of Connecticut

Laws and Rules
Regarding
Inspection of Dams
by
Board of Civil Engineers

1914

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BOARD OF CIVIL ENGINEERS

An Act Concerning the Inspection
of Dams by State Engineers

ALSO

Rules and Information Concerning
Such Inspection

1914

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[Substitute for House Bill No. 735.]

CHAPTER 201.

An Act concerning the Inspection of Reservoirs by State Engineers.

As it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

SECTION 1. The commissioner of rivers, harbors, and bridges who is a civil engineer and one civil engineer residing in each congressional district to be appointed by him shall constitute a board of civil engineers who shall have supervision of all dams and reservoirs in any locality where, by the breaking away of same, life and property may be in danger.

SEC 2. The members of said board shall be sworn to faithfully and impartially perform the duties imposed upon them by this act and shall continue in office for the term of two years and until others are appointed in their stead. They shall meet and organize, appoint a chairman and secretary, formulate rules, and keep records of official acts. The members of said board shall each receive an annual salary of one hundred dollars and their necessary and reasonable expenses which are not chargeable elsewhere as hereinafter provided. The members of said board shall each receive ten dollars per day and their necessary and reasonable expenses while actually employed.

SEC. 3. Upon the application in writing of two or more persons or corporations who would suffer loss or damage by the breaking away of any dam or reservoir, a member of the board of civil engineers shall forthwith inspect the same and if in his opinion said dam or reservoir is not sufficiently strong to withstand the action of water under any circumstances which may reasonably be expected to occur, he shall at once serve notice on the person or corporation owning or having the care and control of the same to place said dam or reservoir in a safe condition under the supervision of said engineer. When such repairs are completed to the acceptance of said engineer he shall issue a certificate of such acceptance to said person or corporation who shall record the same in the land records of the town in which said dam or reservoir is located. If said engineer shall find the dam or reservoir to be secure and safe the expense of such inspection shall be paid by the applicants.

SEC. 4. Before any person or corporation shall construct a dam or reservoir or alter, add to, or replace any dam in a locality where life or property may be endangered through the insufficiency thereof, the plans, specifications, and necessary data for such dam or reservoir shall be submitted to a member of said board of civil engineers who shall examine the ground where the dam or reservoir is to be built and the plans and specifications therefor. If he approves the same he shall issue a certificate authorizing the construction of such dam or reservoir, or such alterations, additions, or replacements. No such dam or reservoir shall be constructed nor such alteration

additions, or replacements made without such approval and certificate. If said state engineer deems it necessary he may, before issuing said certificate, call in for consultation and advice the state board of civil engineers or any member of said board.

SEC. 5. The engineer under whose authority a dam or reservoir is being constructed or a dam being altered, added to, repaired, or replaced shall inspect or cause the work to be inspected to the extent necessary in his judgment to determine whether the structure will be safe and secure, and when the work has been completed to his satisfaction he shall issue a certificate approving the same, which certificate shall be recorded in the land records of the town in which such dam or reservoir is located.

SEC. 6. Any person aggrieved by any decision of a member of said board of civil engineers shall be given a hearing by said board. Any decision of said board may be appealed from to any judge of the superior court within twenty days of the date of such decision.

SEC. 7. Every person or corporation who shall build or repair any dam or reservoir except in compliance with the provisions of this act, or shall use any dam or reservoir when constructed or repaired without obtaining the certificate provided for in this act, shall forfeit five hundred dollars for the use of the state. Any person or corporation constructing or repairing a dam or reservoir, or using any such dam or reservoir when constructed or repaired without complying with the provisions of this act may be enjoined from constructing or using such dam or reservoir.

SEC. 8. The state's attorney of the county in which such dam or reservoir is located, upon the complaint of any engineer designated under the provisions of this act, shall institute an action to recover such forfeiture and to enjoin the construction and use of such dam or reservoir.

SEC. 9. Sections 4800, 4801, 4802, 4803, 4804, 4805, 4806, and 4807 of the general statutes, chapter 80 of the public acts of 1905, and chapter 23 of the public acts of 1911 are hereby repealed.

SEC. 10. This act shall take effect from its passage.

Approved, June 7, 1913.

RULES ADOPTED BY BOARD OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.

1. There shall be submitted for the preliminary approval two copies each of drawings, specifications, description of proposed work, etc. If approved, one copy of each shall be so marked and returned to the owner, the other copy being retained by the Board member for use during the construction period.

2. Before obtaining the final certificate of approval, the owner shall, for permanent record, file with the member of the Board issuing the certificate, plans on tracing cloth or plans on cloth by the in-ko-graf or other equally permanent and satisfactory process of printing, and specifications or written description which show and describe the work as actually constructed. These plans and written data shall be certified as correct by a person who was in responsible charge during construction and who knows to his best knowledge and belief that the facts certified to are correct.

The permanent plans and records shall, from time to time, or at the end of each year, be filed with the Librarian of the State Library by the member of the Board who issues the final certificate of approval.

Certificates shall be issued from the certificate book belonging to the congressional district in which all or the principal part of the dam or reservoir is located.

5. Members of the Board, while acting in their official capacity, shall not render professional services to owners in connection with the dam and reservoirs concerning which they are officially engaged.

6. A member of the Board who may be employed as designing or constructing engineer of dam shall, by reason of such employment, be disqualified to act in an official capacity as inspector of such dam, or to issue certificates of approval therefor.

7. The chairman shall call meetings of the Board as he desires, or upon the request of four members.

8. The assent of four members shall be necessary for action by the Board.

9. Bills for salary, services and expenses shall be forwarded to the Chairman of the Board for his approval before payment. Salary and general expense bills to be rendered quarterly, those for specific dam inspections to be rendered from time to time or when work is completed. All bills be itemized.

INFORMATION.

Section 4 of the Act requires all persons about to construct, alter, add to, or replace any dam or reservoir where life or property may be endangered through the insufficiency thereof, to obtain a preliminary certificate of approval from a member of the Board of Civil Engineers before starting the work. The owner should furnish to the member of his district, plans and specifications in sufficient detail as will enable the member to understand just what kind of work is contemplated. The Act also mentions the necessary data is to be supplied to the Board member. This is information such as the area of water shed, location of dam, the character of the soil or rock that the dam will rest on, whether or not there are any other dams upstream imposing a hazard on the dam in question, or other data necessary to be considered by the member in order to determine if the proposed construction will in his judgment be safe and secure. Owners are urged to send full information with the plans and specifications when making application for preliminary approval in order to avoid delays otherwise necessary to obtain such information later.

Rule 2 of the Board requires plans on tracing paper or plans on cloth by the in-ko-graf or other equally permanent and satisfactory process of printing, showing the work as actually built, to be filed as the permanent record. Specifications

or written descriptions are also to be filed. Blue prints, even when made on cloth, are not permanent; therefore, are not accepted. The permanent records will be kept in the vault at State Library and it is thought will be of great value to both the owners of dams and the Board of Civil Engineers, if, in the future, it is desired to do work on a dam previously inspected. It has been the history of nearly all the dams built in the State that sooner or later the owners desire to raise, reconstruct or otherwise change them, and very frequently find they do not possess plans or descriptions of the old work that they know are correct. The Board asks the cooperation of the owners of dams in making the permanent record complete.

There are six members of the Board of Civil Engineers, one member at large and one from each of the five congressional districts of the State. The names and addresses of the present incumbents are given on the next page. It is customary to make application for approval to the member representing the congressional district in which the dam is located, but the law permits any member of the Board to act in any location in the State.

BOARD OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.

AT LARGE.

WILLIAM H. CADWELL, Chairman, 213 Main Street, New Britain, Conn.

The Commissioner of Rivers, Harbors and Bridges who is a Civil Engineer.

FIRST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT.

The District is the County of Hartford.

LUTHER W. BURT, 39 Pearl Street, Hartford, Conn.

SECOND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT.

The District includes Tolland, Windham, Middlesex and New London Counties.

EDWARD W. BUSH, Secretary, Lyme, Conn.

THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT.

The District includes New Haven County except the northwestern portion.

ALBERT B. HILL, 100 Crown Street, New Haven, Conn.

FOURTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT.

The District is the County of Fairfield.

ORACE G. SCOFIELD, 954 Main Street, Bridgeport, Conn.

FIFTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT.

The District includes all of Litchfield and the northwestern portion of New Haven Counties.

WILLIAM G. SMITH, 51 Leavenworth Street, Merbury, Conn.

